

LITTLE BIRCH PARISH COUNCIL –PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON
Wednesday 2nd February at 7.30pm – at Little Birch Village Hall

DRAFT M I N U T E S

PRESENT: Councillors; (PR) Peter Rees (Chair); (KD) Kate Dillon; (KR) Kate Robbins; (MD) Mike Davies;

ALSO: Sophie Glover (Parish Clerk), Toni Fagan (TF) (Ward Councillor); Angela Middleton (Footpaths Officer);

Meeting Opened: 7.30pm

Open session for comments from the public:

A parishioner asked what happened when a planning application went to appeal? Was there an opportunity for people to resubmit evidence? TF went through how an appeal works.

1.	Apologies - (JG) Janet Gwinnett;
2.	Declaration of interest KD on the planning for Castle Nibole.
3.	Receive reports from i. Ward Cllr report (Cllr Toni Fagan) There was a full council meeting earlier this week – from this there was an announcement from the leader that no school in the county was under special measures at the moment. There will be a budget meeting next week, council tax increase will be proposed to be 1.99%. She is doing surgeries at Llanwarne village hall every Saturday morning. ii. James Howell, Balfour Beatty - Reports sent weekly. iii. Police update – sent out through the www.neighbourhoodmatters web site. iv. Footpaths officer- including discussion on bye ways and footpaths Bridleways to be addressed: LB3, LB3a and LB5 These are down as footpaths and need to be listed as bridle Ways or something higher than a footpath. KD will work with AM to find the way to ‘upgrade’ the designation of these paths. AM will ask Tom Fisher who is working with her to list the current paths. Action: KD to let AM know exactly which paths are involved. TF will try to research who to contact at HC. Also a number of footpath signs need to be replaced – AM will let the clerk know exactly where these are for the lengthsman to be tasked to do it.
4.	To accept minutes of the January Parish Council meeting Proposed: Chair Seconded: MD All in agreement. It was resolved to accept that the minutes as a true record of the meeting.
5.	Action points from previous PC meetings All addressed, or on the agenda apart from clerks appraisal and salary discussion. We are still waiting for the decision by NALC on the incremental rise for clerks salaries from April 2021.
6. 6.1	Planning Matters: To consider applications to be determined by Herefordshire Council as listed below or on the Planning website prior to the meeting: – KD left the meeting; 214424 – Land West of Castle Nibole. Proposed 2x 3 bedroom dwellings. Deferred from last meeting so that more information could be gathered about access to the site. A site visit was undertaken by PR and MD. The applicant explained that they had taken advice from the planning

	<p>department when considering access. MD paced out the old gateway and found it to be between 3.5 and 4m. The new accessway is planned to be 6m but Mr Dillon stated that they would make every effort to make it smaller than this.</p> <p>The PC had received information from a parishioner, including many photos to support her objection, the Chair explained that the PC could only comment on the application itself that is put before them. He also explained that as a PC they had looked at two particular issues, firstly against the NDP, against which He could not see any problem. Then against the removal of hedgerows, a precedent was set at the Castle Pool development, this is a similar case. There is a minimum effect on the hedge line with the proposed new access. MD agreed with this summary, he said that the new gate was about 3 meters. MD asked for some supplementary planting should be undertaken to mitigate for the hedge that is being removed. Proposal to support this application (MD) Seconded (PR) all were in favour.</p>																		
6.2	KD returned to the meeting.																		
6.3	<p>220130 – Garages at Budliah Cottage, Vaughan Lane. Variation of condition 3.</p> <p>It was proposed that the clerk asked for more information as the PC did not have enough information available to make an informed decision.</p> <p>Planning decisions made: None</p> <p>Local Plan Update – there is a Spatial Options zoom meeting tomorrow night which no cllrs can attend but will watch the recording when that is released.</p>																		
7.	Lengthsman – update, identification of work; None to be added.																		
8.	Finances: Ref changing bank accounts from HSBC. Clerk had circulated a paper about an alternative banking provider: Unity Trust . There is a £6 monthly charge, but that is all.																		
8.1	It was moved to get the clerk to start the paper work for this change.																		
	Proposer: Chair seconded: MD all were in favour.																		
8.11	<p>Balances:</p> <p>HSBC account (at 27.12.21) £ 6,312.16</p> <p>Payments to be agreed:</p> <p>Parish Acct</p> <table> <tr> <td>Clerks Salary January</td><td>As listed</td></tr> <tr> <td>Clerks expenses</td><td>As listed</td></tr> <tr> <td>Bank Charges (Nov to Jan) pd by DD</td><td>£19.00</td></tr> <tr> <td>Rent of village hall for meetings</td><td></td></tr> <tr> <td>March 2018 to Feb 2019</td><td>£205.00</td></tr> <tr> <td>March 2019 to Feb 2020</td><td>£205.00</td></tr> <tr> <td>July 2021 to Feb 2022</td><td>£114.00</td></tr> <tr> <td>Total:</td><td>£524.00</td></tr> <tr> <td>Halc subs</td><td>£340.33</td></tr> </table> <p>Proposed: KD Seconded: PR</p> <p>All in agreement. Payments to be made.</p>	Clerks Salary January	As listed	Clerks expenses	As listed	Bank Charges (Nov to Jan) pd by DD	£19.00	Rent of village hall for meetings		March 2018 to Feb 2019	£205.00	March 2019 to Feb 2020	£205.00	July 2021 to Feb 2022	£114.00	Total:	£524.00	Halc subs	£340.33
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8.111	Receipts – None.																		
8.1v	Requests for financial aid – None.																		
9.	Queens Jubilee / Queens Green Canopy																		

	LBVH are putting on an event, they are looking at what Much Birch are doing so as not to clash. KD proposed doing a beacon (Thursday night). She is working on gathering peoples opinion on what they want to do for the event. LBPC offered their support where they can.
10.	Reports from any meetings or training attended: Cllrs were advised of the need to have their own e mail address for privacy.
11.	Broadband MD thanked TF for her work in finding out the background to some of the villages Broadband issues. Sadly there is quite good coverage for half the village, meaning that there is possibly not enough interest to bring in their own network. The working group is looking at dongles and satellites as alternative providers. TF suggested that it might help to get Fastershire to a meeting with the village. Ian Stoddart at Fastershire to be invited by TF. Suggested that we invite him to a public meeting after the next PC meeting. Action: clerk to invite Mr Stoddart to attend a meeting.
12.	To receive agenda items for the next PC meeting: broadband.
	To note date of next scheduled PC meeting –Wednesday 2 nd March 2022 at 7.30pm or 7pm if we have a broadband person to give a presentation.
	Meeting closed at 8.15 pm

SIGNED:..... CHAIRMAN Dated:.....

Future Meetings

	Wednesday March 2 nd	7.30pm
	Wednesday April 6 th	7.30pm
Annual Meeting	Wednesday May 4 th	7.00pm
	Wednesday June 1 st	7.30pm
	Wednesday July 6 th	7.30pm
	Wednesday September 7 th	7.30pm
	Wednesday October 5 th	7.30pm
	Wednesday November 2 nd	7.30pm
	Wednesday December 7 th	7.30pm